

Appln. No. 10/672,583
Amdt. dated: May 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated: Feb. 24, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated February 24, 2005. This reply is timely filed. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-36 were pending in the application. Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 26-36 have been allowed. Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 21, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 11, 13-15, 17-20, 23, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The rejections are set out in more detail below.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 11, 13-15, 17-20, 23, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has now amended claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 13, 17, 19, 23, 24 so that they include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2884 in the amount of \$600 for the six (6) additional independent claims in excess of three (3). Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Acct. No. 50-2884.

Claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 9, and 10 have been amended so that they now depend from allowable claim 2. Claims 16, 21, 22, and 25 have been amended so that they now depend from allowable claim 13. Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.


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In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. However, if there should remain any outstanding issues, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

5-24-05
Date


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